Commission Exhibit No. 837

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

May 4, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to the discussion between staff members of the Commission and Mr. A. H. Belmont of this Bureau, May 4, 1964.

In accordance with this discussion, there are listed below the contents of the FBI headquarters file concerning Lee Harvey Oswald up to the time of the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963:

* 1. A newspaper clipping from the "Corpus Christi Times," dated October 23, 1959, indicating another American citizen had defected to the Soviet Union.

2. A United Press Release dated October 31, 1959, at Moscow advising that Lee Harvey Oswald had gone to Russia and had applied to renounce his American citizenship and become a Soviet citizen for "purely political reasons."

* 3. A memorandum dated October 31, 1959, from E. B. Reddy to A. H. Belmont reporting that a check of this Bureau's files disclosed no information identifiable with Lee Harvey Oswald. It was noted a military service fingerprint card was located in the files of the Identification Division which appeared to relate to Oswald.

4. A State Department telegram classified "Confidential" dated October 31, 1959, from Moscow to the Secretary of State reporting that Oswald appeared at the American Embassy, Moscow, to renounce his American citizenship.

5. A copy of an Office of Naval Intelligence memorandum dated November 2, 1959, containing the results of a check of the U.S. Marine Corps file regarding Oswald.

6. A Navy Department communication classified "Confidential" from Moscow to the Chief of Naval Operations dated November 3, 1959, advising of Oswald's request for Soviet citizenship.

7. A Navy Department communication classified "Confidential" from the Chief of Naval Operations to the Naval Attache in Moscow dated November 4, 1959, furnishing background information regarding Oswald.

* 8. A memorandum from W. A. Branigan to A. H. Belmont dated November 4, 1959, summarizing agency checks regarding Oswald and recommending that no further action was warranted by this Bureau concerning Oswald at that time. It was also recommended that a stop be placed against the fingerprints of Oswald in the files of the Identification Division should Oswald re-enter the U.S. under any other name.

9. A copy of a State Department Despatch from the American Embassy, Moscow, to the Department of State, Washington, D. C., dated November 2, 1959, classified "Confidential," which set forth results of Oswald's contacts with the American Embassy in Moscow.

10. A copy of a telegram classified "Confidential" from the American Embassy, Moscow, to the Secretary of State dated November 9, 1959, advising of efforts to relay a personal message from John Pic, half brother of Lee Harvey Oswald, to Oswald.

11. A copy of a telegram classified "Confidential" from the American Embassy, Tokyo, Japan, to the Secretary of State dated November 9, 1959, setting forth results of an interview with John E. Pic regarding Lee Harvey Oswald.

* 12. A copy of the Identification Record Number 327 925D regarding Lee Harvey Oswald. This record disclosed Oswald was fingerprinted by the U.S. Marine Corps on October 24, 1956.

13. A copy of an airtel from the New York office to this Bureau dated May 23, 1960, captioned "Funds Transmitted to Residents of Russia, Internal Security - R," which sets forth results of an interview with Marguerite C. Oswald regarding Oswald's plans to attend the Albert Schweitzer College in Switzerland.

14. A letter from this Bureau to the Department of State dated June 3, 1960, furnishing the State Department data in the possession of the FBI concerning Lee Harvey Oswald and requesting the State Department to furnish this Bureau any information it may have concerning Oswald.

15. A letter to this Bureau from the Legal Attache in Paris dated July 27, 1960, setting forth results of his inquiries through his sources to locate Lee Harvey Oswald.

16. A letter to this Bureau from the Legal Attache in Paris dated September 27, 1960, setting forth results of his efforts to determine if Oswald was enrolled in the Albert Schweitzer College in Switzerland.

17. A letter to this Bureau from the Legal Attache in Paris dated October 12, 1960, advising that information from his sources indicated Oswald was not in attendance at the Albert Schweitzer College in Churwalden, Switzerland.

18. A letter to this Bureau from the Legal Attache in Paris dated November 3, 1960, which set forth additional data developed from officials of the Albert Schweitzer College regarding Lee Harvey Oswald.

19. A letter to this Bureau from the Office of Naval Intelligence dated November 15, 1960, advising that Lee Harvey Oswald was given an undesirable discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve on August 17, 1960.

20. A letter from this Bureau to the State Department dated February 27, 1961, advising the State Department that Oswald had not shown up at the Albert Schweitzer College in Switzerland and also advising that Oswald had been given an undesirable discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

* 21. A letter from the Washington Field Office to this Bureau dated May 23, 1961, setting forth results of a review of the files of the Passport Office, Department of State, concerning Oswald.

22. A letter from the Department of State to this Bureau dated May 25, 1961, advising that the State Department possessed no information which indicated that Oswald had renounced his nationality of the U.S. and that if he had not expatriated himself in any way, the American Embassy was prepared to furnish Oswald a passport for travel to the U.S.

Cover Page 23. The report of Special Agent (SA) John W. Fain dated July 3, 1961, Dallas Texas, which set forth results of investigation of Oswald.

* 24. A routing slip from the Legal Attache, Paris, to this Bureau dated July 28, 1961, advising that the Legal Attache had informed one of his sources as to the present status of Lee Harvey Oswald.

* 25. A letter from the Washington Field Office to this Bureau dated September 1, 1961, which set forth results of a review of the records of the Passport Office regarding Oswald.

* 26. A copy of a State Department name check regarding Oswald's wife, Marina Nicholaevna Oswald, dated September 12, 1961. This Bureau responded to such name check "no investigation conducted by FBI pertinent to your inquiry." We also referred State Department to data previously disseminated to the State Department on July 13, 1961, regarding Lee Harvey Oswald. (Report of SA John W. Fain dated July 3, 1961, at Dallas.)

* 27. A letter from the Dallas office to this Bureau dated September 29, 1961, setting forth results of inquiries in Dallas made in an effort to obtain data regarding the status of Lee Harvey Oswald in Russia.

* 28. A letter from the Dallas office to this Bureau dated November 20, 1961, setting forth results of an interview with Marguerite C. Oswald, subject's mother, regarding plans of Oswald to return to the U.S.

* 29. A copy of Identification Division Record Number 327 925D regarding Oswald.

* 30. A letter from the Washington Field Office to this Bureau dated February 19, 1962, which set forth results of a review of the records of the Passport Office regarding Oswald.

31. A copy of a communication classified "Confidential" from the Director of Naval Intelligence to the Naval Attache in Moscow dated March 3, 1962, which set forth information in Office of Naval Intelligence files regarding Oswald.

32. A copy of a communication from the Office of Naval Intelligence to the Department of State dated March 3, 1962, which enclosed results of an interview of John Edward Pic by the Department of the Air Force on February 12 and 16, 1962.

33. A letter from the Office of Naval Intelligence to this Bureau dated April 26, 1962, enclosing a copy of a letter Oswald sent to Brigadier General R. McC. Tompkins, U.S. Marine Corps, dated March 22, 1962. In this letter, Oswald indicated that General Tompkins should consider his letter a request by Oswald for a full review of his case.

* 34. A letter from the Washington Field Office to this Bureau dated May 11, 1962, which set forth results of a check of State Department files regarding Oswald.

* 35. A letter from this Bureau to the Dallas office dated May 31, 1962, advising that Oswald planned to return to the U.S. and instructing the Dallas office to be alert for his arrival in this country and thereafter to interview him to determine whether Oswald was recruited by Soviet intelligence or made any deals with the Soviets in order to obtain permission to return to the U.S.

36. A letter to this Bureau from the State Department classified "Confidential" dated May 17, 1962, entitled "American Defectors: Status of in the USSR." Included in the list of defectors named was Lee Oswald.

* 37. An airtel to this Bureau from the Washington Field Office dated June 6, 1962, which set forth results of a check of State Department records regarding Oswald.

* 38. An airtel from the New York office to this Bureau dated June 12, 1962, which set forth results of a check of the records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), regarding Oswald and which enclosed two newspaper clippings regarding Oswald.

* 39. An airtel to the New York office from this Bureau dated June 14, 1962, advising the New York office as well as the Washington Field, Dallas and Newark offices to be alert for Oswald's arrival and destination in the U.S.

* 40. A letter from the New York office to this Bureau dated June 26, 1962, which set forth results of a check with INS concerning Oswald and a check of the records of the Holland America Line regarding Oswald and his family.

Cover Page 41. A report of SA John W. Fain dated July 10, 1962, at Dallas, which set forth results of investigation regarding Oswald and his wife, Marina. This report also set forth results of the interview of Oswald on June 26, 1962, by SAs John W. Fain and B. Tom Carter.

* 42. A letter from the Dallas office to this Bureau dated July 25, 1962, entitled "Marina Nikolaevna Oswald," which placed the FBI investigation of Marina Oswald in a pending inactive status. It was pointed out that it was felt her activities could be sufficiently followed at that time in connection with the case on her husband, Lee Harvey Oswald.

Cover Page 43. A report of SA John W. Fain dated August 30, 1962, at Dallas, Texas, set forth results of additional investigation of Oswald. This report also set forth the results of the interview of Oswald on August 16, 1962, by SAs John W. Fain and Arnold J. Brown.

* 44. A letter from the Dallas office to this Bureau dated March 25, 1963, advising that information had been received from a confidential source on September 28, 1962, that Oswald's name was contained on a list of names and addresses of subscribers maintained by "The Worker," an east coast communist newspaper.

* 45. A copy of the Identification Division Record Number 327 925D regarding Oswald which set forth the fact he had been arrested in New Orleans, Louisiana, on August 9, 1963.

* 46. A newspaper clipping of the "Times Picayune," of New Orleans, Louisiana, dated August 13, 1963, which reported that Oswald had been arrested in New Orleans for passing out Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC) literature.

* 47. A letter from this Bureau to the New Orleans office dated August 21, 1963, instructing the New Orleans and Dallas offices to conduct additional investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald as a result of his distribution of literature in New Orleans on August 9, 1963.

* 48. An airtel from the Dallas office to this Bureau dated August 23, 1963, which set forth results of its investigation to establish the residence and employment of Oswald in New Orleans.

* 49. A letter from the Dallas office to this Bureau dated September 10, 1963, which changed the office of origin of our investigation concerning Lee Harvey Oswald from Dallas to New Orleans.

* 50. A letter from the Dallas office to this Bureau dated September 10, 1963, which changed the office of origin in our investigation entitled "Marina Nikolaevna Oswald" from Dallas to New Orleans.

* 51. A copy of the Identification Record Number 327 925D regarding Lee Harvey Oswald.

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52. The report of SA James P. Hosty dated September 10, 1963, at Dallas which set forth results of investigation of Oswald. This report indicated that Oswald was then residing and working in New Orleans, Louisiana.

* 53. A letter from this Bureau to the Dallas office dated September 25, 1963, furnishing an Appendix page regarding the FPCC.

54. An airtel from the New Orleans office to this Bureau dated September 12, 1963, requesting that the New York office furnish an appropriate characterization of Corliss Lamont. It was noted that Oswald, in addition to disseminating material from the FPCC in New Orleans, also passed out booklets entitled "The Crime Against Cuba" by Corliss Lamont.

55. An airtel from the New Orleans office to this Bureau dated September 24, 1963, which enclosed copies of a memorandum dated September 24, 1963, concerning Oswald which set forth data surrounding Oswald's arrest in New Orleans on August 9, 1963. Such data was obtained from the New Orleans Police Department.

56. A copy of the Identification Division Record Number 327 925D concerning Oswald.

57. An airtel from Dallas to this Bureau dated October 22, 1963, reporting that INS in Dallas had received a communication classified "Secret" from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Mexico City, which indicated that an individual, possibly identical with Lee Harvey Oswald, was in contact with the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City.

58. A CIA Release dated October 10, 1963, which was sent to the FBI, Department of State and Department of the Navy classified "Secret" which reported that an American male who identified himself as Lee Oswald had contacted the Soviet Embassy, Mexico City, on October 1, 1963. The CIA Release indicated Oswald may be identical to Lee Henry Oswald, born October 18, 1939, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

59. An airtel from the New Orleans office to this Bureau dated October 25, 1963, advising that Oswald left a forwarding address in New Orleans on September 26, 1963, showing his new address to be 2515 West Fifth Street, Irving, Texas.

60. An airtel from the New Orleans office to this Bureau dated October 24, 1963, requesting the Dallas office to locate subject and his wife.

* 61. A cablegram to this Bureau from our Legal Attache in Mexico dated October 18, 1963, which furnished information from CIA classified "Secret - Not To Be Further Disseminated," reporting that Lee Oswald had contacted Soviet Vice Consul Valeriy V. Kostikov of the Soviet Embassy, Mexico City, Mexico, on September 28, 1963. Our Legal Attache indicated he was following this matter with CIA and was attempting to establish Oswald's entry into Mexico and his current whereabouts.

* 62. A cablegram to the Legal Attache, Mexico, from this Bureau dated October 22, 1963, furnishing a brief summary of data in the files of this Bureau concerning Oswald.

Cover Page 63. The report of SA Milton R. Kaack dated October 31, 1963, at New Orleans, Louisiana, which set forth results of additional investigation regarding Oswald.

* 64. An airtel from the Dallas office to this Bureau dated October 30, 1963, wherein SA James P. Hosty, Jr., reported a pretext interview in the vicinity of 2515 West Fifth Street, Irving, Texas. Such interview revealed Marina Oswald was residing with Mrs. Michael R. Paine and that Lee Harvey Oswald visited Marina at this address but was not living there.

* 65. An airtel from the Little Rock office to this Bureau dated November 5, 1963, which furnished a change of address regarding Robert Oswald, brother of Lee Harvey Oswald.

* 66. A letter from the New Orleans office to this Bureau dated November 15, 1963, entitled "Marina Nikolaevna Oswald" which changed the office of origin from New Orleans to Dallas.

* 67. An airtel from the Dallas office to this Bureau dated November 4, 1963, reporting results of the contact with Mrs. Michael R. Paine on November 1, 1963.

* 68. A letter from the New Orleans office to this Bureau dated November 19, 1963, changing the office of origin of the Lee Harvey Oswald investigation from New Orleans to Dallas.

69. An airtel from the Washington Field Office to this Bureau dated November 19, 1963, reporting that an informant advised on November 18, 1963, that Lee Harvey Oswald had been in contact with the Soviet Embassy, Mexico City, Mexico.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover